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HC HANATOYUME COMICS 別冊花とゆめ

パレス メイヂ 3

久世番子

HANATOYUME COMICS
別冊花とゆめ

Palace Meidi

Volume 3

Palace Meidi
Chapter 9

FROM THE FIRST DAY THEY ENTER THE PALACE, THE PALACE LADIES ARE GRANTED A NAME BY THE EMPEROR
YOUR MAJESTY, THIS IS THE NEWCOMER SERVANT
COMMONLY CALLED A "PROFESS-IONAL NAME"
WHAT SHALL I BE CALLED?
.....

HOW ABOUT
"WAKANA"* SHOUJI?
I'M SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY.
"WAKANA" HAS ALREADY BEEN BESTOWED.
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!
Sorry.
I am your servant...
*"Wakana" means "young greens"
step
SHOW ME YOUR FACE
.WHY
ARE YOU CRYING?

*Shunju, which will be her name, means "pearl"
YOUR TEARS ARE LIKE PEARLS.*
SHOW ME YOUR FACE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
RUSTLE

THE OUTER PALACE WAITING CHAMBER
SHINJU!
CROWN PRINCE,
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
MISONO,
THIS YEAR, THE CROWN PRINCE BECAME FIVE YEARS OLD
YES SIR
ALLOW ME TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE OUTER PALACE
I HAVE TO WEAR A HAKAMA WHEN I COME TO VISIT BIG SIS HER MAJESTY

*Fukasogi – cutting the sidelocks on top of a Go board. *The hakama are a gift from the emperor

WEE!
ACCORDING TO PALACE TRADITION, IT IS PERFORMED AT THE HOME OF THE LOYAL RETAINERS WHO RAISED THE CROWN PRINCE.
THE FUKASOGI* CEREMONY WAS PERFORMED.
HE WAS FITTED WITH HAKAMA AS A CELEBRATION OF HIS GROWTH.*
AFTER THIS, THE CROWN PRINCE LIVES IN ANOTHER PLACE
HE DOES NOT LIVE WITH BLOOD RELATIVES
HEY,
HER MAJESTY IS MEETING AN IMPORTANT PERSON TODAY, BUT,

WELL,
I DON'T KNOW EITHER
WHO IS IT?
Huh?
AH!
THE MEETING TODAY IS ONE WE CANNOT FORGET
FOR THE CROWN PRINCE AND ME,
Wait!
Wait!
PLEASE WAIT!
woof
woof
woof
WE STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND ITS SIGNIFICANCE.
CROWN PRINCE!
BAM
WOOF! WOOF!!
CCP

AKIKO-SAMA
NO,
NOW I SHOULD SAY, "YOUR MAJESTY"
BUT ISN'T "YOUR MAJESTY" WHAT YOU CALLED THE MEIDI EMPEROR?
DO YOU WANT THAT TO CHANGE?
NO,
THE PALACE HAS CHANGED SINCE THE TIME OF THE MEIDI EMPEROR...
WHY IS IT THAT YOU NO LONGER COME AND LET ME SEE YOU?

YOU'RE A STUBBORN PERSON TO GO AGAINST EXPECTATIONS
.....
MY ROLE IN THE PALACE HAS ENDED
OH, WELL,
NOT AS MUCH AS YOU
NO, SHINJU.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A CRYBABY, YOU HAVE A STRONG HEART.
SINCE THE DAY I FIRST SAW YOU,
I HAVE CRIED.

TODAY YOU BEGAN YOUR PERIOD...
pitter patter
SUKE-SAMA, LAST MONTH SHE BEGAN ON THE SEVENTH...
pitter patter
THE TENTH IS ALSO EARLY
TODAY, HIS MAJESTY IS AT A RITUAL SERVICE... UNCLEAN PEOPLE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE CLOSE TO HIM STAY IN YOUR ROOM
I'M VERY SORRY
WHY DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?
.....
*Service palace lady In charge of everyday beauty tasks. They do not sleep with the emperor.
YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND YOUR OWN ROLE IN THE PALACE *
YOU ARE NOT A SERVICE PALACE LADY LIKE US

ABOUT THE BIRTH OF THE PRINCE AND HEIR
THE EMPRESS GAVE BIRTH TO THE FIRST IMPERIAL PRINCESS, AKIKO-SAMA, BEFORE SHE FELL ILL
THE EMPRESS PALACE LADIES BECAME HER SUBSTITUTE * HE WAS AWARDED FIVE PRINCES AND PRINCESSES WHO DIED WHILE STILL YOUNG
*Empress Palace Lady—Palace Lady who becomes a concubine
HE WAITS FOR A HEALTHY PRINCE TO BE BORN
SHINJU-SAN. WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
THIS IS AN HONORABLE ROLE

"SHINJU STILL CRIES."
"WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR YOU TO STOP CRYING?"
IT IS AN HONORABLE ROLE, BUT
I AM AFRAID OF THIS PLACE.
IT IS FRIGHTENING TO GIVE BIRTH TO A PRINCE
DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT?

gasp
SINCE YOU ARE THE ONLY NEW COURT LADY WHO IS CRYING
I'M ASKING THIS FOR MY FATHER,
I understand
ARE YOU CRYING BECAUSE IT HURTS SO MUCH?
I SUFFER FROM CRAMPS EVERY MONTH TOO.
THE PRINCESS AKIKO-SAMA!
THIS PERSON IS...
YOU ARE THE SAME AGE AS ME

NO, IT'S NOT REALLY MY STOMACH
WHAT?
I'm crying for a different reason
YOU'RE NOT IN PAIN?
I'm jealous!
NO
IF YOU ARE SUFFERING, I CAN LISTEN
Lightly
pfft
SINCE YOU'RE THE PRINCESS,
YOU CAN'T TELL EVERYONE ABOUT IT
hehe
YEAH,
IT'S ALSO THE FIRST TIME I'VE TALKED ABOUT IT

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
IT'S "SHINJU"...
I WAS CRYING LARGE TEARS,
WHEN HIS MAJESTY GAVE ME THAT NAME...
SHINJU
IS A BEAUTIFUL NAME
THE TEARS
STOPPED.
blush

pitter patter
BIG SIS,
CATCH RON!
I have no excuse
Help me!

THIS PERSON IS...
sits down
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, CROWN PRINCE.
whine
huff
YES!
huff
wheeze
huff

PLEASE GREET HER, CROWN PRINCE.
SHE IS YOUR BIRTH MOTHER, SHINJU.
HOW ARE YOU, CROWN PRINCE?
Smile
HOW ARE YOU...
)) hides
Oh.

CROWN PRINCE?
.....
BIG SIS,
IS IT OKAY IF WE PLAY IN THE GARDEN?
GRAB
GRAB
MISONO, LET'S WRESTLE!
EH?
OKAY...

I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM HER MAJESTY A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
SHINJU WAS A PALACE LADY FOR THE MEIJI EMPEROR
IT WAS THE CRYBABY SHINJU WHO GAVE BIRTH TO THE PRINCE.
THEREFORE, I DID NOT HAVE TO ACCEPT
MY OWN FUTURE AS WELL.

WE CAN WRESTLE ANOTHER TIME DON'T YOU WANT TO VISIT WITH HER MAJESTY AND SHINJU-SAMA TODAY?
.....
Not yet, not yet
CROWN PRINCE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TALK ABOUT
?
WOULDN'T ANYTHING BE ALRIGHT?
NO!
TODAY I'M GOING TO WRESTLE WITH MISONO!!
OOOF
OKAY!!
DON'T GRAB ME THERE!
IT'S FOR-BIDDEN!
OUCH OUCH OUCH OUCH
IS THIS ALRIGHT? WE DON'T HAVE TO KEEP TALKING.

AH, HE FALLS OVER LIKE A PUPPY...
IT'S ENOUGH JUST TO LOOK AT HIS LIVELINESS
THAT BOY ATTENDANT IS GOOD AT PLAYING WITH HIM.
Waah! Waah!
THEN, YOU ARE FOND OF HIM...
!
Oh dear Oh dear
drip drip
MISONO HAS WORKED HERE FOR A LONG TIME. I TRUST HIM WITH MY PEACE OF MIND.
Head Palace Lady
I HEARD FROM THE HEAD PALACE LADY
THAT YOU WERE VERY "FOND" OF SOMEONE.
Lady-in-waiting
MISONO IS INTERESTING
I FEEL RESTFUL BESIDE HIM.
WHEN WAS IT...?

Not yet, not yet
IF I AM A BIRD IN THIS PALACE CAGE,
HE SAID HE WOULD MAKE IT A COMFORTABLE CAGE
OH, AKIKO-SAMA,
THAT'S THE KIND OF THING SOMEONE WHO IS IN LOVE WOULD SAY

LOVE...?
grrr
SHINJU,
I... DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT
DID YOU LOVE MY FATHER?

*The mask the Meiji Emperor is wearing is a face made from kana characters. It is common as a childrens decoration.

Y-Y-YOUR MAJESTY!?
YOU CRIED WHEN YOU SAW MY FACE, SO I WORE A MASK.
It didn't work
Sigh
TALK WITH ME FOR A LITTLE
AREN'T YOU CLOSE TO AKIKO?
..YES SIR.
ONLY ONE OF MY CHILDREN HAS GROWN OLD ENOUGH FOR THE HAKAMA CEREMONY
THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN STILLBIRTHS OR HAVE LEFT US TOO YOUNG
THE ONLY CHILDREN THE PALACE WOMEN HAVE GIVEN ME.
!

A PRINCE WAS BORN IN THE PALACE
THE MOTHER WAS A YOUNG NOBLE GIRL LIKE YOU
THE BIRTH...
NEITHER OF THEM SURVIVED IT.
STILL, THE RETAINERS TOLD ME IT WAS ALL RIGHT.
WITH ANOTHER PALACE LADY, A PRINCE WOULD-
IT WAS MY DUTY AS EMPEROR.
BUT, I STILL DID NOT WANT TO LOSE ANYTHING.

SHINJU,
I'M ALSO AFRAID
flicker
IT'S GETTING LATE, SO I'LL FINISH MY STORY
TONIGHT, THIS SHOULD BE YOUR ROLE
rolls over
LET'S GO TO SLEEP
YOUR MAJESTY!
FLAP

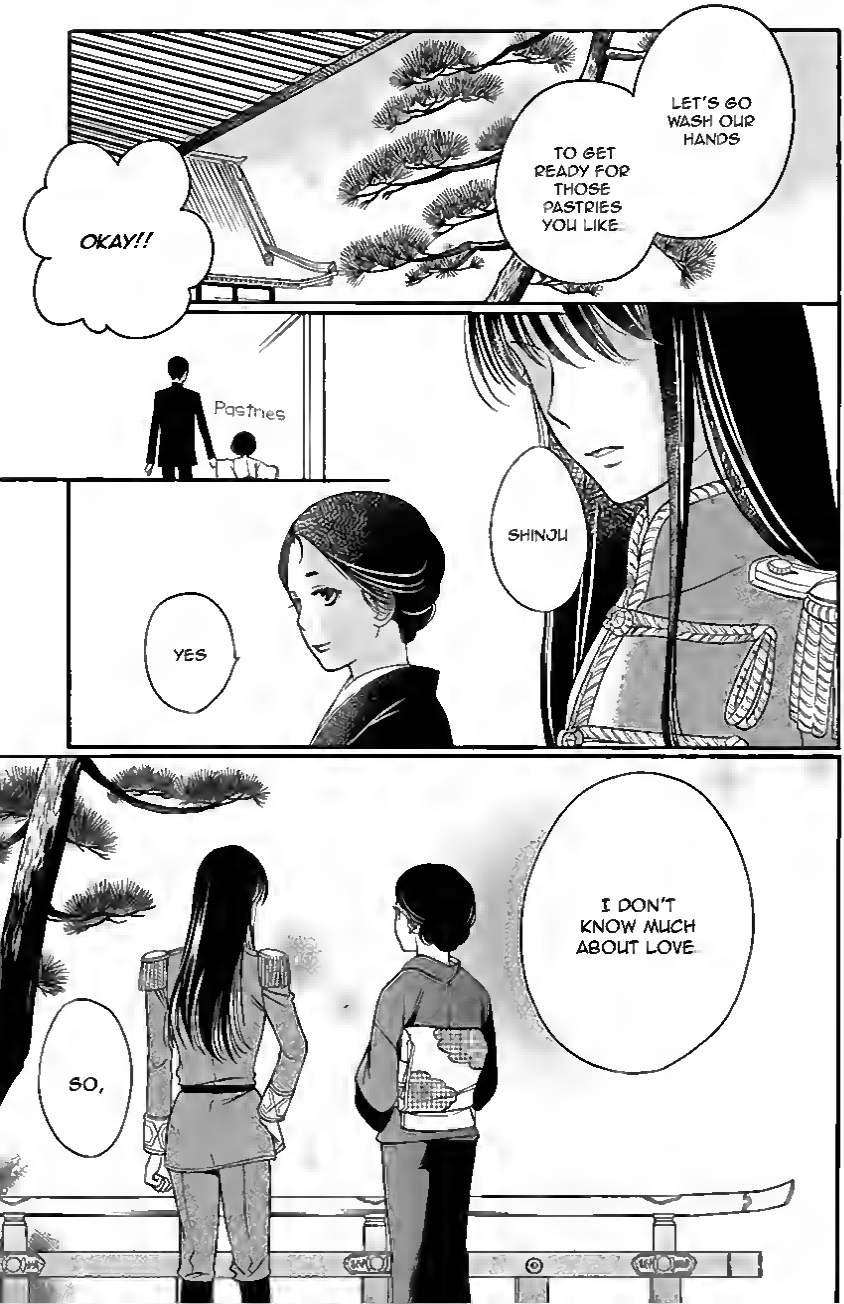
SHINJU?

UMM...
YOUR MAJESTY
WAS CRYING LIKE ME...
PLEASE DON'T CRY...

WAAAAHH!
MISONO, YOU DUMMY!!
MISONO CHEATED!
THERE'S NO WAY I LOST!
NO WAY! I WON!
I'M SORRY
I didn't try my hardest, but you still lost!
THE CROWN PRINCE IS THE BEST, OKAY?
WAAAAH!

IT DOESN'T MATTER
SNIFF
CROWN PRINCE!
DON'T YOU ALWAYS WIN AGAINST YOUR OWN RETAINERS!?
.....
NOD
SINCE MISONO IS MY RETAINER, YOU CAN'T DEFEAT HIM!

HE DEFEATED ROKUJOUIN-NO-MIYA.
Oh?
Yes, I did win that game
AWE-SOME!
YOUR MAJESTY
RIGHT, MISONO?
.....
YES,
I CAN-NOT BE DEFEATED!


LET'S GO WASH OUR HANDS
TO GET READY FOR THOSE PASTRIES YOU LIKE
OKAY!!
Pastries
SHINJU
YES
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT LOVE
SO,

IF, AS YOU SAY,
MY FEELINGS TOWARD MISONO MIGHT BE CALLED LOVE,
AND IF I CANNOT CUT OFF THESE FEELINGS,
THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED FOR THE EMPEROR, SO...

Yes! You said that!!
OH DEAR, DID I SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
LOVE...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT LOVE, EITHER
WERE THEY COMPASSION, PITY OR LOVE?
MY FEELINGS TOWARDS HIS MAJESTY THEN,
AKIKO-SAMA,
SOON YOU WILL LEAVE YOUR POSITION
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT IS LEFT.

I'LL BE HERE A LITTLE LONGER.
I WON'T GO AWAY LIKE YOU.
Yes. I'm that kind of woman.
DON'T TAKE SO LONG TO VISIT THE PALACE AGAIN!"
YES.
OH?
ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY?
YES CROWN PRINCE.
.....
YOU SHOULD ALWAYS LISTEN TO HER MAJESTY, YOUR BIG SIS

CAN YOU PROMISE ME?
YES.
ALSO, IF YOU LOSE WHILE WRESTLING,
DON'T CRY
.....
fidget
fidget

boing
nod
umm,
...
I HAVE NO EXCUSE!
I'VE PREVENTED YOU FROM MEETING YOUR CHILD...
oh.

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
IT'S ALRIGHT I WAS INTRODUCED AS HIS BIRTH MOTHER
OF COURSE HE WAS SHY
AS I EXPECTED, I SHOULDN'T MEET SOMEONE SO EXALTED...
HIS SHYNESS IS EVIDENCE THAT HE WAS RAISED WELL!
BESIDES, THE CROWN PRINCE HAS ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT HIS MOTHER COMING
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT HE WOULDN'T BE NERVOUS...

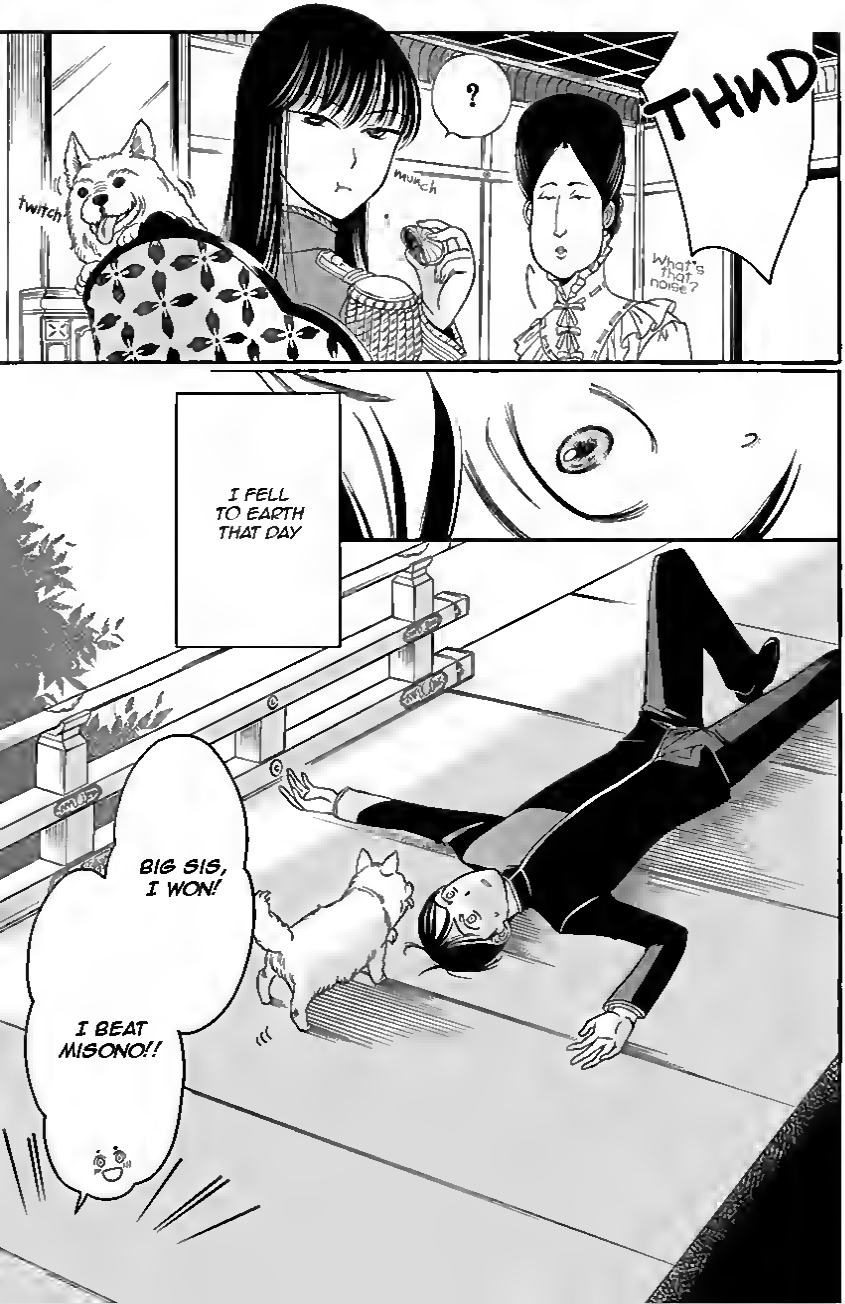
HEHE
suddenly
BE CAREFUL OF WHAT IS BESIDE YOU.
?
MISONO SAN
smile
THANK YOU, MISONO-SAN
HER MAJESTY WAS TELLING ME ABOUT HOW YOU WERE AN INTERESTING ATTENDANT
hehe
Blush
UMM,
I WAS TOO OBTRUSIVE

!?
I WOULD NEVER DO THAT...
HEHE...
IN THE NEAR FUTURE,
YOU COULD BECOME TROUBLESOME TO HER MAJESTY.
Is it good?
Please.
munch
munch
"A COMFORTABLE CAGE"?
MISONO-SAN,
SHOULD SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF THAT CAGE ENTER IT?

CONSIDERING THAT PROMISE,
PLEASE UNDERSTAND YOUR ROLE AS A RETAINER
!
I CANNOT PERMIT HER MAJESTY TO CRY.

MISONO!
boing
munch
munch
MISHONO?
WHY DID SHINJU-SAMA GIVE ME THAT ADVICE?
YOU DIDN'T COME FAST ENOUGH.
RON ATE YOUR HALF OF THE PASTRY

!
SPIN
WAS IT ABOUT HOW THE CROWN PRINCE WAS RAISED?
.....
OR,
HI-YA!
THUD
HUH?
IT DEFINITELY WASN'T THE WINNING TECHNIQUE


twitch
munch
?
THUD
What's that noise?
I FELL TO EARTH THAT DAY
BIG SIS, I WON!
I BEAT MISONO!!